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James Meadows & Jeremy Barnard stop in Cohasset overnight

Sailing The Ocean Blue, From New Orleans To Maine

By Judith Epstein

James Meadows and Jeremy Barnard, a writer and photographer team, are sailing the ocean blue — 3200 miles of it, from New Orleans to Friendship, Maine. In 120 pound single mast "Phan-

tom" sailboats, no less.

They were last seen around these parts at the Cohasset Yacht Club pier, fending off reporters and photographers. To the tune of up the eastern coastline in 149 days, the duo is planning to complete their trip on July 27. Why? In time for a huge party in Friendship, of course, where all the crews' friends and followers will assemble for the bash.

From the sound of it they'll need R-and-R from both the trip and the party.

The night's stop over in Cohasset, where Barnard's parents live, was one of a succession of respites since their initial shove-off March 1. "We stop every night, camp on beaches, or stay in hotels and motels. We've been put up by people all along the coast," Barnard said.

"People are very receptive," Meadows said, adding "Especially in the South; there is something to southern hospitality."

As for the daily amenities, the pair carries about five days worth of food and water apiece.

"We wanted to get away from society and back to nature, in a way," was the way Meadows explained the trip. According to Barnard, he was in for the "sheer adventure." "Every minute has

been great," he said, and then qualified his remark, "Crazy. It's almost taken our lives several times."

Somehow "sheer adventure" is putting it mildly when confronted with tornadoes, sharks and robbers, as were these two young men at various harrowing points of their journey.

Barnard recited one of the milder incidents, "A 10 foot wave threw me and boat. I hit the water first and when I looked up the boat was coming down on me. It's not a very comforting feeling," he said.

Then there was the time the 12-foot hammerhead shark decided to surface under Barnard's sailboat. "One thing you don't do," he advised, as if it were the type of thing people go out and do every day, "one thing you don't do is violate a shark's feeding grounds. They are very protective and possessive."

Meadows told of the two tornadoes they sited off the coast, and which almost veered in their direction. The team's practice is to sail along the coastline fairly close, although they have gone as far out as 10 miles.

Their worst experience, and somehow the most humiliating of all the things that could go wrong, occurred when they

(turn to page 7)

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July	High Tide	Low Tide			
19	8:17 a.m. 8:41 p.m.	2:07 a.m. 2:21 p.m.	22	11:02 a.m. 11:12 p.m.	4:48 a.m. 4:54 p.m.
20	9:18 a.m. 9:37 p.m.	3:06 a.m. 3:16 p.m.	23	11:45 a.m. 11:54 p.m.	5:31 a.m. 5:39 p.m.
21	10:12 a.m. 10:27 p.m.	3:58 a.m. 4:07 p.m.	24	— 12:26 p.m.	6:12 a.m. 6:21 p.m.
			25	12:36 a.m. 1:06 p.m.	6:53 a.m. 7:02 p.m.